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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

1. Page 19

After paragraph 83 insert the following new paragraphs 84 to 87, and renumber former paragraphs 84 to 114 and subheadings 4 to 9 accordingly

4. Department for Development Support and Management Services

84. As the operational arm of the Secretary-General and the focal point for technical cooperation in the Secretariat, the primary objective of the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat is to provide support to developing countries and economies in transition in the management of their development, in an integrated and holistic manner. The broad concepts of governance, public management and integrated development management, which encompass intersectoral concerns and environmentally sustainable development, lie at the heart of the Department's work, and in this context the role of women assumes critical importance.

85. Through its long-standing Task Force on Women in Development, the attention of the Department has been directed not only towards raising awareness of women's concerns but also towards ensuring that women's needs and potential contributions to development are incorporated into technical cooperation

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programmes. The main result of the Interregional Workshop on the Role of Women in Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, organized jointly by the Department and INSTRAW and held at Beijing in 1992, was the elaboration of 100 replicable project profiles, applicable to the diverse development needs of women in developing countries and economies in transition in a wide range of substantive sectors.

86. Training and capacity-building are essential components of technical cooperation programmes. The Department and INSTRAW developed two computerized simulation models for urban and rural settings, demonstrating how gender constitutes the crucial variable in the development formula. A series of workshops on Policy Development for Increased Participation of Women in Public Management was organized as part of an ongoing effort to assist Governments in developing and implementing administrative reform strategies. In the Gambia, a project of the Department to strengthen public enterprises aims to eliminate discrimination and increase opportunities for women. The project has created the basis for financial legislation, in-service rules of public enterprises and national constitutional revisions required to bring legislation in conformity with the United Nations Centre for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The Department has also examined characteristics of the social policy formulation process in the area of Women in Development, in the form of a study of the institutional dimension of social policy formulation in selected Latin American and Caribbean countries. Preliminary findings have revealed that despite increasing awareness of the need to incorporate the gender perspective in the public policy process, much remains to be done in terms of systematic institutional incorporation.

87. Training workshops using a multi-media modular training package on women, water supply and sanitation have been conducted by the Department and by INSTRAW in Africa and Asia, the latter in cooperation with ESCAP. A further workshop will take place in Namibia in November 1994. A department project on women and the use of solar energy for sustainable water supply is expected to be launched in Senegal. Technical cooperation activities are being undertaken to further the role of women in small-scale mining. Women are both beneficiaries and participants in a self-help rural development project in the Central African Republic, and a campaign is being launched this year to mobilize and enhance credit schemes in favour of women. In Swaziland, each year more that 400 women attend training courses providing business skills, advisory and referral services and access to credit, to assist them in establishing and maintaining viable small businesses. A project to strengthen the management capacities of the Uganda Commercial Bank has increased women's access to credit and economic development, with women forming groups, registering as cooperative societies, opening bank accounts and integrating into wider economies.

2. Page 27

After former paragraph 114, insert the following new paragraphs 119 to 121, and renumber the subsequent paragraphs and subheadings accordingly

11. United Nations Population Fund

119. The goals of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the International Conference on Population and Development are mutually reinforcing, and a key concern of both Conferences is the empowerment of women. UNFPA activities in support of both Conferences have therefore emphasized the complementarity of these goals. Preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development have ensured the inclusion of gender concerns throughout the draft programme of action. In addition to mainstreaming gender issues, a separate chapter in the draft programme is devoted to the empowerment of women, gender equality and equity. The actions proposed in the draft programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development will contribute significantly to the Platform for Action of the Conference on Women in health and family planning, education, economic activities, participation of women in development, strengthening of women's non-governmental organizations, focus on male responsibility and participation, the needs of the girl child. The Conference on Women will serve as an opportunity to amplify the message of the International Conference on Population and Development on issues concerning women, population and development.

120. UNFPA is sponsoring a variety of activities at all levels in support of the Conference on Women. At Headquarters, the Executive Director has convened an internal high-level task force on preparations for the Conference and a working group is also being formed to ensure the coordination of UNFPA activities in this regard. UNFPA is supporting the participation of womens' non-governmental organizations in regional preparatory conferences. It is providing funds for an expert group meeting planned for Least Developed Countries, organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It will also fund a number of publications, and information and advocacy materials.

121. UNFPA is collaborating with other United Nations agencies both at the field level and at Headquarters. It is a member of the informal inter-agency mechanism on the Conference, which meets regularly at Headquarters. It has also provided direct support to the Conference secretariat by funding the post of a senior officer in the secretariat. It is working with UNICEF in the development of a brochure on the girl child for the Fourth World Conference on Women.